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ABSTRACT

In an effort to increase respect for certain creatures, this book profiles animals with reputations out of proportion to the actual potential harm they do. An introduction reviews the results of a survey conducted to determine which animals people generally favor or disfavor and the common beliefs held towards animals. The remainder of the book is organized into three parts that group animals according to their habitat of either air, water, or land. Animals or groups of animals profiled include bats, buzzards, moths, leeches, clams, razorback suckers, jellyfish, snakes, slugs, tarantulas, coyotes, ants, packrats, skunks, and toads. Each profile contains the following parts: (1) a story and some of the folklore associated with the animal; (2) a summary of the natural history of the animal, including a description of the animal and its life cycle, the range occupied by the animal, and interactions of the animal with other organisms; (3) a variety of interdisciplinary activities related to the animal; and (4) an annotated resource list. Appendices provide information on edible animals, animal classification, the animal preference survey results, and solutions to puzzles. A glossary and index are included. (LZ)

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